

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 30, 2004

His Excellency Vygaudas Ušackas
Ambassador of the Republic of Lithuania
Washington, DC

Dear Ambassador Ušackas,

We are writing to express our grave concern over the recent series of anti-Semitic and bigoted articles appearing in the Lithuanian daily newspaper, *Respublika*. We urge you to forcefully condemn its malicious message of hatred and intolerance against Jews and gays.

We understand that this series of articles ran on the front page of the *Respublika* daily paper and appeared over the course of three days, beginning February 20, 2004. The articles, one of which was authored by the *Respublika*'s editor, Vytas Tomkus, revisited the fictitious conspiracy theory of the *Protocols of the Elders of Zion* in order to perpetuate an unfounded anti-Semitic canard that Jews "rule the world" and use the issue of the Holocaust to conceal their criminal activity. They also included gays in the scope of their attack. A vitriolic caricature accompanied the articles, which depicted stereotypical illustrations of both a Jewish man and a gay man struggling to "rule the world."

As the Republic of Lithuania is expected to become a member of the European Union (EU) on May 1, 2004, it is imperative that the Lithuanian government combat anti-Semitism and intolerance throughout its borders. Considering that the EU recently stated that it would fight against anti-Semitism and bigotry throughout Europe, it is shocking that the content of these prejudiced articles and the accompanying caricature appeared on the front page of an ostensibly respectable Lithuanian newspaper within three months of its impending membership in the EU. The indoctrination of Lithuanian citizens to hostility, bigotry, and prejudice against Jews and gays will only threaten the stability of trans-Atlantic relations between Lithuania and the United States and potentially slow the progress of the Republic of Lithuania's integration into European institutions.

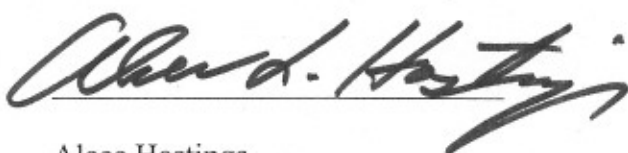
We urge you to take a leadership role in rejecting the *Respublika*'s series of articles that demonize Jews and gays and perpetuate intolerant stereotypes throughout the Republic of Lithuania.

We look forward to your prompt response on this important issue.

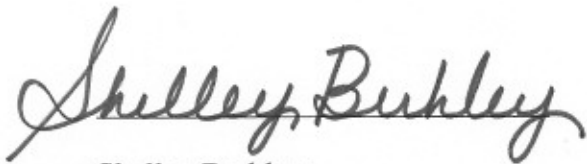
Sincerely,



Steven R. Rothman
Member of Congress



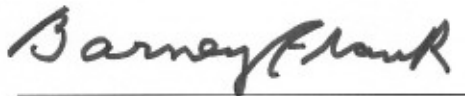
Alcee Hastings
Member of Congress



Shelley Berkley
Member of Congress



Frank Wolf
Member of Congress



Barney Frank
Member of Congress



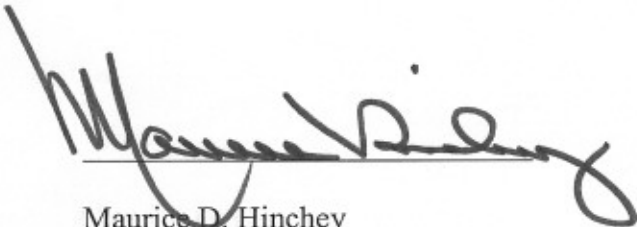
Lane Evans
Member of Congress



Martin Frost
Member of Congress



Howard L. Berman
Member of Congress



Maurice D. Hinchey
Member of Congress



Steve Israel
Member of Congress



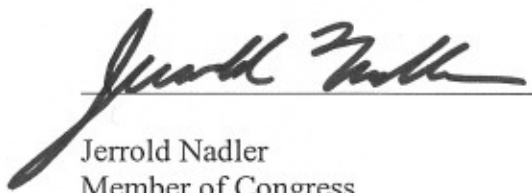
Dana Rohrabacher
Member of Congress



Henry A. Waxman
Member of Congress



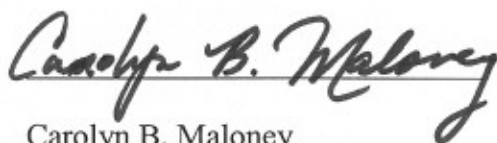
Anthony D. Weiner
Member of Congress



Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress



Carolyn B. Maloney
Member of Congress



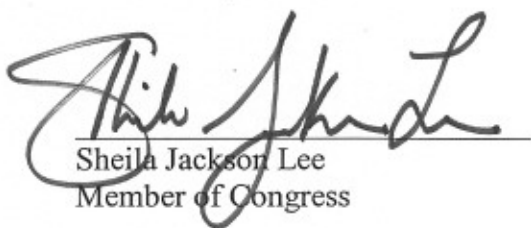
Neil Abercrombie
Member of Congress



Christopher H. Smith
Member of Congress



Peter Deutsch
Member of Congress



Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress